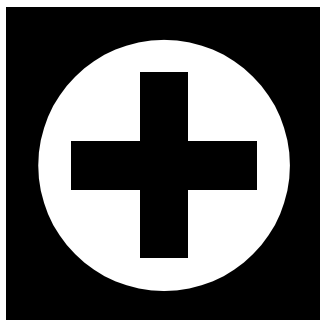




Maintaining Livestock Health after a Flood



Disease Control

Following a flood there may be danger of infectious diseases in livestock, but unless serious outbreaks of infection have occurred recently there is no need to be alarmed. Observe these precautions:

- Where large numbers of animals assemble, watch for any sign of infectious diseases such as pneumonia, foot rot or leptospirosis.
 - These diseases are more likely to occur where cattle are crowded on wet ground and where horn flies and houseflies are abundant.
 - If possible, an experienced stockman under the supervision of a veterinarian should handle and feed the animals.
- Promptly report any sign of disease to the nearest veterinarian or County Extension Agent.
- Contact a veterinarian about vaccinating animals for immunity from flood-related diseases such as anthrax, lepto, blackleg and swine erysipelas.

Feed and Water

- Provide clean, uncontaminated water.
- Inspect feeds such as corn, wheat and hay.
 - Damaged grains and moldy hay may cause digestive disturbances.
 - Horses, sheep, poultry, swine and cattle are affected most severely (in that order) by damaged feed.
 - Do not force livestock to eat silage that has been flooded, even though its appearance may be unchanged.

This document is IFAS publication DH 610.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Document DH-086,
IFAS Disaster Handbook for
Extension Agents (developed
by the Cooperative Extension
Service for the benefit of
Florida's citizens)

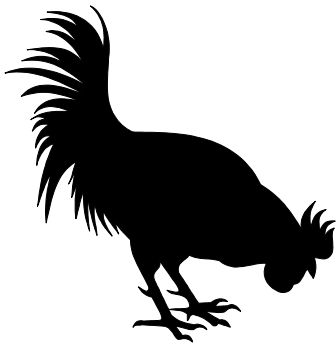
- Do not feed any feed or forage that may have been contaminated by chemicals or pesticides.

Pastureland

- Standing water may have ruined some pastures.
 - Lack of adequate forage could force animals to eat poisonous plants which are abundant in some parts of the country.
 - Remove fallen wild cherry limbs from pastures to prevent livestock poisoning.
- Before restocking flooded pastures, remove debris, especially along fence lines and in corners. Livestock could be injured from pieces of barbed wire, sharp metal and trash.

Protecting Dairy Cows

- Try to milk at regular times. It is better to lose the milk from one milking than to stress high-producing cows.
- If you must use a neighbor's milking parlor, try to keep the two herds separate.
- If feed supplies are limited, give the largest portion of available feed to the highest-producing cows and those recently fresh. This may be a good time to cull the herd.
- Clean and sanitize milking parlor, dairy barn and equipment before returning to normal use.
- Watch for signs of mastitis, which is likely to flare up if milking methods, time and equipment have been changed.



Sanitation

- Clean out hog houses, barns and chicken houses.
 - Spray buildings with a good disinfectant before animals occupy them again.
 - Air buildings thoroughly before they are dried out.
- Remove debris from dairy barns.
- Scrub and disinfect walls, ceilings, floors, stanchions and other equipment.

- Scrub the milk house and equipment with detergent and hot water.
- Sanitize equipment, walls, ceilings and floors with dairy sanitizer equipment.
- Dispose of animal carcasses promptly. If there is no rendering company operating nearby, burn or bury carcasses deeply in a place approved by your local soil conservation office.

Insects

Mosquitoes and other pests may be abundant after a flood. They not only annoy animals, but some species carry disease. Spray animals with an insect repellent as recommended by your County Extension Agent.